



CITY OF DETROIT
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
2 WOODWARD AVENUE, SUITE 103
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
PHONE 313•224•0098 TTY:311
FAX 313•963•4074
WWW.DETROITMI.GOV

May 18, 2012

Honorable Rick Jones, Chairman
Michigan State Senate Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

RE: Support for "Blight Elimination" Legislation, SB 1096 – 1100

Dear Chairman Jones:

On behalf of the City of Detroit, I am writing to express support for SB 1096-1100, the pending "Blight Elimination" bills that are before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

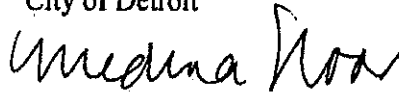
The City of Detroit has been working with the State Legislature for ten years now to empower home rule cities, like the City of Detroit, with the tools to stamp out blight in our communities. This collaboration between the City of Detroit and the State Legislature began in 2003 with the initial passage of Public Acts 2003, No. 316, which amended Chapter 117, Home Rule City Act, to allow home rule cities to establish administrative hearings bureaus to adjudicate blight violation ordinances. The City of Detroit established its Department of Administrative Hearings in 2005 and the City has heard over 500,000 blight cases.

Neighborhoods that are clean and properly maintained continue to be the highest priority for the City of Detroit. The viability of the City of Detroit and its success at restoring Detroit to a great city depend on the local government possessing the legal tools to enforce laws requiring property owners to maintain their property. The blight violation enforcement tools granted by the State Legislature in 2003 were an important first step. The provisions in SB 1096-110 are important next steps in completing the necessary toolbox that cities need to enforce property-related, blight ordinances. Particularly, it is imperative that cities have the ability to access a streamlined garnishment and lien process so that the full power of state judgment enforcement will serve as a strong incentive for property owners to comply with blight ordinances and judgments.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the City of Detroit's support for the "Blight Elimination" legislation. I am happy to provide any further information in support of the Senate Bills.

Sincerely,

City of Detroit

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Medina Noor".

Medina Abdun-Noor, Esq., Director
Department of Administrative Hearings

cc: Senator Virgil Smith
Senator Tonya Schuitmaker
Senator Tory Rocca
Senator Stieve Bieda